Origin of the civil defence initiatives in the country

*320. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, besides Police system in the States/UTs, there are other auxiliary localized institutions e.g. Resistance Group, Volunteer Force, etc., promoted by citizens' initiatives for maintenance of social/communal harmony etc.;

(b) when were such auxiliary units introduced in our system and their details as of now;

(c) the details of the Civil Defence initiatives in the country;

(d) the details of Government supports to such initiatives, including revisions, if any, effected from time to time, since Independence;

(e) when was the module of training in Civil Defence formulated; and

(f) the details of revisions, if any carried out therein so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) In India, Home Guards were raised in Bomaby in December 1946, to assist the police in controlling Civil disturbances and communal riots. Subsequently, this concept of a voluntary citizens force, as an auxiliary to the Police for maintenance of law and order and for meeting emergencies like floods, fires, famines, etc. was adopted by several others States such as Paranti Raksha Dal, West Bengal Village block and Civic Guards. After 1962, the Centre advised the States and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary organizations into one All India Force known as 'Home Guards' which would be voluntary both in concept and character. Home guards provide support to the State administration in hours of need including maintenance of social and communal harmony.

(c)'and (d) The policy of the Government of India till 1962 was confined to making the States and Union Territories conscious of the need of Civil Defence measures and to ask them to keep ready Civil Defence Paper Plans for major cities and towns. Two major events which gave a filling to formalization of Civil Defence set-up in India, since independence were to two wars in 1960s'. The Civil Defence was given legal status by the Civil Defence Act passed by Parliament in 1968. The Government

supports the civil defence set-up in the country by providing logistic and financial support to the states for raising, training and equipping them from time to time.

(e) and (f) Civil defence training was introduced after 1962. There has been constant review & upgradation of training module from time to time keeping in view the requirements in the changing scenario.

Written Answers to Unstarred Questions

Export of branded jewellery

2316. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of branded jewellery exported in 2003-04 and up to February 28,2005 respectively;

(b) whether Government has taken special efforts to increase exports of branded jewellery from the country;

(c) whether any training institutes are proposed in different States to use the original skills of jewellery makes in the country;

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to encourage such exports from different parts of the country; and

(e) details of such incentives to increase exports of branded jewellery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The data for export of branded jewellery is not available separately. However, the total exports of gold jewellery (plain and studded) from India during the year 2003-04 and upto June 2004 during the year 2004-2005 is as follows:—

Year	2003-04	2004-05 April to June
	US$ in Million	US$ in Million
Gold Jewellery	1868.79	565.99

Soruce: DGCI&S (www. commerce.nic.in)

(b) Export of Gem and Jewellery has been identified as one of the thrust sectors under speical focus initiatives in the existing Foreign Trade Policy with the objective to enhance exports of gem and jewellery including branded jewellery from India.